



*It is believed that Amedeo Obici built this house around a c. 1870s farm house.*

## HISTORY ENDANGERED

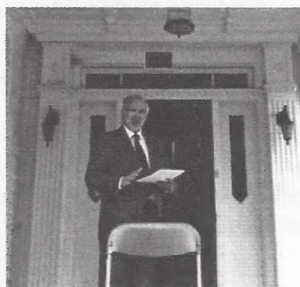
*We were working on a newsletter on another topic but this needs attention now. On June 3, 2009, the City Council considered proposals for leasing Sleepy Hole Golf Course which was constructed years ago on what had been Amedeo Obici's Bay Point Farm. Council accepted a proposal for a long term lease of the golf course. The Obici House was not included in that proposal. Council turned down proposals that included refurbishing and using the house. At this writing the future of this National Register property hangs in the balance.*

On May 18, 2009, Louis Malon, Director of Preservation Services from Preservation Virginia (formerly known as the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities) came to Suffolk to announce his organization's fifth annual list of the Most Endangered Historic Buildings and Sites in Virginia. The home of Amedeo Obici, founder of Planters Peanuts, was on the most endangered list.

How has it come to this?

Most people who have been in Suffolk a long time would understand Mr. Obici's part in our history. Perhaps this will inform newcomers or refresh memories.

Thanks to the family of the late Ted LoCascio, SNHS currently holds a wonderful collection of photographs and other items related to the Italian-born man who was such a giant of American industry. In this issue we share with our readers a glimpse of that collection.



Mr. LoCascio was an engineer who worked at Planters for and with Mr. Obici for 12 years and for many years after Mr. Obici's death. In his retirement he worked to insure that the story of Mr. Obici and Planters would be remembered. With some of the pictures Mr. LoCascio collected we share a story written by him telling some little known facts about Mr. Obici.

*Louis Malon announced the Most Endangered Historic Buildings and Sites in Virginia from the porch of the Obici House. For the complete list of endangered properties, see page 3. Photo by John Johnson.*



## AMEDEO OBICI (The Other Man)

by

Ted S. LoCascio



*Mr. and Mrs. Obici pose together*

The story of Amedeo Obici, “The Industrial Giant”, “Founder of Planters Nut & Chocolate Company”, “The American Dream”, “From Rags to Riches”, has been told many times over. How about “Obici—The Other Man”?

Obici had other interests, personal and civic, which included the Suffolk Rotary Club (a founding member, director, and president), Suffolk Chamber of Commerce (president and director), Virginia Manufacturing Association (director and member of the Executive Committee), member of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce and United States Chamber of Commerce. He was a director of the Farmers Bank of Nansemond, forerunner of the United Virginia Bank [now SunTrust]; he was active in many tasks that fall to the lot of successful people interested in the problems of city and state. He was amiable, with good-breeding and polite Latin ancestry—exceedingly generous toward worthy enterprises, sensibly philanthropic in the manner of people who respect money from having had to earn it in small amounts, but quick to recognize the merit and possibility of turning unfortunates into useful citizens.

Obici was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason, and a member of the Shrine. He was Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He was president of Christopher Columbus Society in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose. He was a member of the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary, at which he endowed a chair of Italian Literature. His religious affiliation was with the Freethinkers, and he was an Independent politically. During World War II he contributed his time and wealth and was responsible for raising one million dollars in war bonds. The decoration of Commander of the Crown of Italy was conferred upon Obici in recognition of Virginia’s most distinguished citizen of Italian birth. In 1935 President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s special guest list for the annual diplomatic reception at the White House included his friend, A. Obici. A large gift by A. Obici to establish a bed for tuberculosis patients in the Tidewater Victory Hospital was announced on March 17, 1938.

It was A. Obici who was first in Suffolk to reduce the fifty hour work week to forty hours, with employees receiving the same amount of compensation. This took place on May 22, 1933.

It was during the late 1920’s that Obici came to the rescue of the Suffolk News-Herald. The company was faced with having to “close its doors” when Obici purchased the paper from several local citizens who owned it. It was reported that Obici admittedly knew nothing concerning the operations of a newspaper, but he could not stand by and see the paper fold—leaving Suffolk without a hometown newspaper. He, therefore, purchased the paper to keep it alive until someone else could come forward and buy it. Obici first hired Claudis [Claudius] Riddick, a Suffolk native, to manage and publish the paper. Unfortunately, the paper lost money, and Obici had to subsidize the weekly payroll from his own funds. Eventually, the paper was sold to an individual in Beckley, West Virginia. He kept it until it was sold to Worrell newspaper chain. At the time it was sold, William (Bill) Missett became the editor and publisher.



*The elegant pool was lost some years ago.*



*The Obicis extended hospitality to so many people, including the officers and crew of a French cruise ship who visited the Obici house in 1936.*

It was also in the 1920’s that Obici and his friend Milton T. (Pete) Elliott decided that Suffolk needed a good hotel. They pooled resources and built the Elliott Hotel on the corner of Main and Market Streets (currently known as Suffolk Towers).

Likewise, Obici’s birthplace in Ordezo [Oderzo], Italy was provided with funds to build a hospital, just because the need existed.

Of all the philanthropic deeds attributed to Obici, the Louise Obici Memorial Hospital stands out most vividly among the people of Suffolk. Obici recognized the need of a modern hospital to care for the people of Suffolk and the surrounding communities. In 1942 he provided the initial funding to build the hospital as a fitting tribute to his late wife, Louise, and formed a corporation to hold funds from a variety of sources. At his death he bequeathed almost his entire fortune to the proposed hospital. It was Obici’s wish to provide medical care for every member of the community regardless of any individual’s ability to pay for needed services.

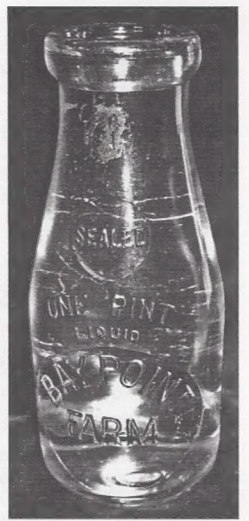




Mr. Obici with his pet goat

In September 1951, the Louise [Obici] Memorial Hospital opened to the public and its companion School of Nursing opened in October.

In 1916 Obici married Louise, daughter of J.B. Muscante, who was from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Louise was born in Meconesi, Italy. The Obicis built a beautiful 300 acre estate, Bay Point Farm, twelve miles below Suffolk on the Nansemond River. Mr. Obici had pardonable pride in this magnificent retreat with its comfortable home, facilities for boating and river sports, landscaped vistas, floral treasures, and a "bowling green" for the Italian game of Bocce. His special hobby was the modern dairy operated on the estate, from which milk products of pure Guernsey stock was delivered over a large route in Suffolk. The Obicis were lavish in their hospitality and lovers of refined music. Mr. Obici had a preference for the masters of literature, as indicated by the wealth of classic and semi-classic volumes in his library.



Bottle from Obici's dairy.  
Photo by John Johnson

After Obici had built his home, in 1927 he felt the need to do something for his employees; he then built the Planters Club. The Club was not only used for the employees of Planters, but became a meeting place for various social activities for all the people of Suffolk.



Obici leaves the house for the last time.



Mr. Obici and employees aboard his yacht  
The Alura, 1936

In the late 20th century the City of Portsmouth bought the farm and created a golf course around the house. The City of Suffolk has owned the property since 2002.

The Obici Mansion was built in 1924 by Amedeo Obici on the banks of the Nansemond River. It was known as Bay Point Farm and consisted of 300 acres.

All pictures from LoCascio collection unless otherwise noted

To learn more about Mr. and Mrs. Obici, Planters Peanuts and Bay Point Farm, read Strictly for Peanuts, published by SNHS and available at the Train Station gift shop.



#### Preservation Virginia's 2009 list of the Most Endangered Historic Buildings and Sites in Virginia:

- The Obici House in Suffolk
- The Wilderness Battlefield in Orange County
- Former Colonial Heights Baptist Church
- Wolftrap in Isle of Wight County
- Selma in Loudoun County
- McIntire Park in Charlottesville
- Historic barns in Pittsylvania County
- Konnarock School in Troutdale
- 1908 Marion Schoolhouse in Smyth County (Listed in no particular order)

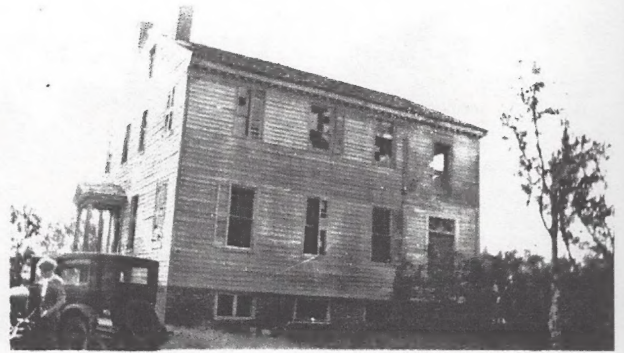


## History Lost

Proximity to the river was desirable from earliest times because it facilitated trade and travel. This house and its land appear to be adjacent to the land that became Amedeo Obici's Bay Point Farm. One of our members, Henry A. Rawles, Jr., of Columbus, Ohio, shared this information with us. Sometime after these photos were taken, the house burned down. Henry's mother recorded the following about the house:

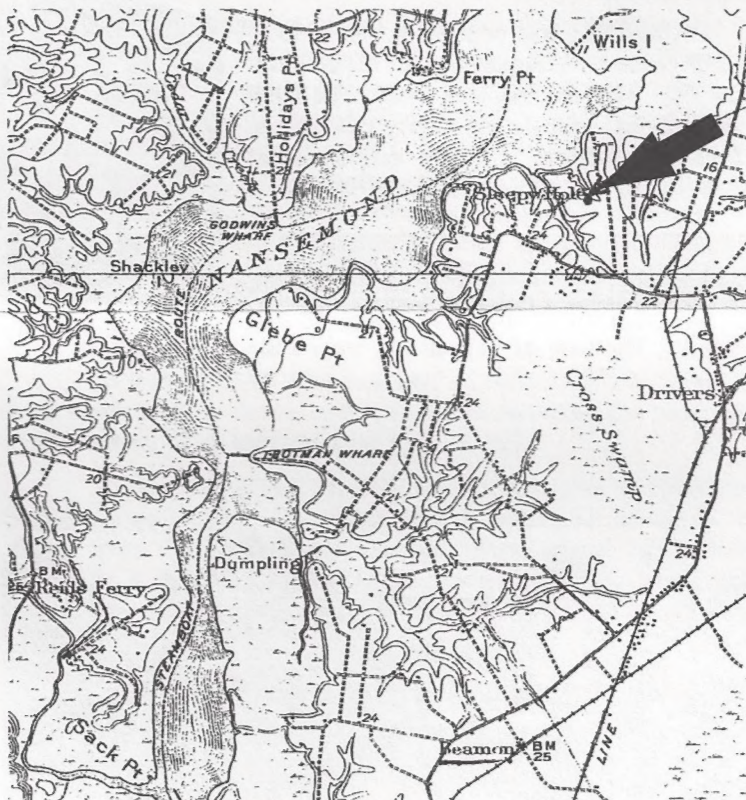
"From newspaper article (Suffolk-Herald) under date of Feb. 8, 1934, written by Mrs. Brockenborough of Suffolk—From Mintonville (home of the Mintons and Shepherds) straight back into the country on the river bank is a gorgeous old house, white clapboards of a most generous proportion, and with the prettiest window I ever saw. This place is called the Bidgood House, but really was the home of Solomon Shepherd, a Revolutionary soldier. He outlived his loved ones and grieved for them so much he lost his mind and spent most of his latter days pacing the floor, dressed in full uniform, with bayonet striking the floor—thinking he was still fighting the British.

Note: When I first saw this old house (in 1934) it was in bad condition. It has since burned. The land on which it was located belonged to a Miss Bidgood later." (signed - Brownie Rawles)



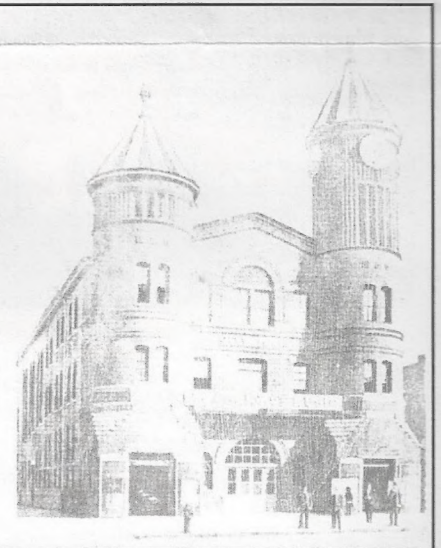
c. 1934 views of the Shepherd/Bidgood house

The arrow indicates the former location of the Shepherd house. The land appears to be adjacent to the later Bay Point Farm/Sleepy Hole Golf Course. The map is undated but shows the steamboat route from wharf to wharf. Driver (or Drivers Station) is shown here center right on the map.



*Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.*

George Santayana



## Good Old Summertime

Edith Freeman Seiling worked at Lakeview Hospital in the 1940s and lived in the nurse's dormitory. She enjoyed spending summer afternoons at Conan Beach. For new folks Conan Beach was beside Pitchkettle Road near Murphy's Mill Road before Lake Mead was created. Photos thanks to Edith Seiling



Hiking to Conan Beach



A refreshing dip



# SNHS 2009 Membership as of June 29, 2009

## **BENEFACTOR**

Tommy O'Connor  
Tom & Sue Woodward  
Hubert & Christine Young

## **SPONSOR**

Mr. Lance & Dr. Eva Carmine  
Nan & Charles Stockman  
Miley & Jean Walker

## **PATRON**

Jim & Dana Adams  
Judge & Mrs. Everett Bagnell  
Joe & Lynn Barlow  
Everett & Miriam Birdsong  
George & Charnell Blair  
James M. Blair  
Mr. & Mrs. F. Prince Butler  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. Cross, III  
Bill & Bruce Darden  
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Habel, III  
John & Virginia Harlow  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Harrell  
John & Lynn Heimerl  
Kermit & Earlene Hobbs  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. S. Chris Jones  
M. Anderson Maxey, Jr.  
Myrtle Ann Mountcastle  
Sen. & Mrs. Fred Quayle  
Rebecca Reid Smiley  
Jack & Faye Webb  
Joe & Nancy Webb

## **FRIEND**

Kirk & Jinks Babey  
Dr. George Barnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. Barry, III  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Bentley  
Mr. & Mrs. George Y. Birdsong  
Mrs. Yancey Birdsong  
Mr. & Mrs. McLemore Birdsong, Jr.  
Mrs. Elsie Brinkley  
Jack & Barbara Chapman  
James S. Chase  
Celia Wagner Coughlin  
Michael & Kenda Council  
Thomas & Nan Cox  
James E. Crocker  
Jean R. Cross  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel V. Dalzell  
Andy Damiani  
Mr. & Mrs. Lowry A. Daniels, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Austin T. Darden, Jr.  
Evelyn P. Daughtrey  
Robert Donnelly  
Carl & Denise Farris  
Henry & Joan Frazier  
Dr. & Mrs. William Fulgham  
Don & Kay Goldberg  
Bob & Pearl Harrell  
Jack & Billie Harry  
Bert & Anne Henderson  
Sally & Steve Herbert  
Steve Herman  
Dr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Higinbotham, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert V. House  
Glenn & Karen Hughes  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen R. Jackson  
Elsie W. Jordan  
C.F. & Linnie Jordan  
Howard E. Kerpelman  
Betty Ann Kyle  
Randy & Jeanette Maust  
Charlotte Andrews McCutcheon  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Phil McPhail  
Nansemond County Farm Bureau  
Sarah N. Newsom  
John & Cleta Norcross  
Alice H. O'Connor  
Betty & Henry Odom  
Hunter Odom  
Nancy & Marcy Pichel  
Sharon & Julien Picot  
Dick & Sylvia Pond  
Tom Powell

Bill & Roberta Powell  
Mrs. Phyllis S. Pruden  
Peter Pruden, III  
Frances Stallings Ramsey  
Larry & Mary Anne Riddick  
Kit & Rusty Roller  
Mack & Ruth Saunders  
Whitney & Ellen Saunders  
Sam & Mary Sherard  
Charles & Carol Lynne Shotton  
Edward & Peggy Simmer  
Polly & Henry Simpson  
Pat Holladay Smith  
Jane Ross Sommers  
Bill & Marilyn Tonkin  
Beth F. Trimble  
Joyce & Bill Wooldridge  
N. Polk Woolford  
Molly & Rutledge Young

## **CONTRIBUTING**

Bob & Fran Alwood  
Fred H. Austin  
Dennis Baggett  
Bill & Annette Bailey  
Mary Anne Barnes  
Maxine E. Barnett  
Angel Bialobrzewski  
James & Becky Bradshaw  
John & Vera Bright  
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Brinkley  
Mr. & Mrs. Allyn Brown  
Dan Bunch  
Gary Butler  
Sammy Callis  
Byron & Jean Carmean  
Barbara & John Carter  
Becky Elmore & Joe Clement  
John M. & Anne M. Council  
Parker Cross  
John & Terri Crumpler  
Mike & Marty Debranski  
Sandy & Nancy Dempsey  
Bill & Hunter Duggan  
Lydia G. Duke  
David & Monica Eure  
Richard & Eleanor Evans  
Shirley R. Fitzgerald  
Marianna Friend  
James & Susan Garrett  
Jane & George Gatling  
Ed & Karen Grogan  
Conrad & Marie Haas  
Mrs. Constance Reid Happel  
Sherwood & Faye Harrell  
Thomas & Karen Hazelwood  
Linda L. Helms  
Frances P. Hobbs  
Mr. & Mrs. F. N. Howe, Jr.  
Patricia S. Howell  
JoAnn S. Hunter  
Chris & Skip Irby  
John & Julie Johnson  
Judge William Wellington Jones  
Jennie Lee Kalie  
Ed & Barbara Kapinus  
Kermit & Frances Kelley  
Esta E. Kincaid  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas W. Kincaid, Jr.  
Lee & Henrietta King  
Beverly Kirchmier  
Grace & Jack Leach  
Sandra LoCascio Hollowell  
Martha & Mack McLean  
Brian & Kate Meechan  
James A. Moore  
Margaret H. Moore Family  
LaRoyce & Carroll Nixon  
Dr. & Mrs. Ben Norfleet  
Olde Virginia Realty, Inc.  
Lynnette Holmes Park  
Robert & Joyce Parker  
Wayne & Charlotte Parr  
Charles D. Parr, Sr.  
H.J. Pettit, III  
Wayland & Kathryn Pond

Mrs. Melvin B. Poulson  
Betty C. Pretlow  
Pam Pruden  
Gail F. Pruden  
Lynn K. Rose  
Corey & Margaret Russell  
Jim & Elaine Salmon  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Savage  
Schlatter Family  
Holmes & Lena Small  
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Taylor  
Sid & Janice Thomas  
Robert & Leila Tompert  
Joyce H. Trump  
Bobby Lee Trump, Jr.  
Andy Tubbs  
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph L. Verdirame  
Jack & Barbara West  
Jimmy & Hazel White  
Burwell & Alvis Winslow  
Dorothy O. Womack

## **SUPPORTING**

Charles M. & Ann B. Abernathy  
Shannon Adams  
Tommy & Jane Arthur  
Gene & Brenda Arthur  
Ronald L. Aston  
Robert & Marie Baker  
Margie Odom  
Mr. & Mrs. Colley Bell  
Susan Blair  
Marie Bowman  
Mickey Boyette  
Ann Bunch  
Sandra & Bill Bunting  
Lyn Bunting  
Dempse B. Burgess  
Jarvis R. & Phyllis C. Byrum  
Bob Cady  
Barry & Adrienne Carlisle  
Sarah W. Carver  
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest H. Cathey  
Sue Hundley Chandler  
Ann Consolvo  
Darrell E. Cook  
William C. Copeland  
Margaret Copeland  
Sue Davis  
Joe & Cathy Delendeck  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Paul Dolan, Jr.  
Sue Draper  
Alma Cross Duke  
Glenn E. Ellis  
Mr. & Mrs. John Eure, Jr.  
Anne P. Everett  
Mr. & Mrs. John Faircloth  
Mary Anne & George Fausel  
Hon. J. Randy Forbes  
Edwin A. Friend Jr.  
Carroll Godwin Frohman  
Alice Fuller  
George & Carol Gardner  
David B. Gardner, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Gersbach  
Ann & Dutch Greene  
Linda Howerton Harper  
Lee Hart  
Martha R. Hayes  
Charlie & Donna Henderson  
Jennifer & Burr Henderson  
Paul D. Hollomon  
Rob & Denson House  
Mrs. John A. Howell, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Jaffe  
Linda Annas James  
James L. Jennings  
David A. Johnson  
Amy Williamson Jonak  
Stephen M. Jones  
Mary Margaret Jones  
Sen. John R. Jordan, Jr.  
Imogen M. Klein  
Jack Kress  
Kimberly & Jeff Krzemien  
Karen Kusmez

Cindy Lane  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur L. Latimer, III  
Victoria Lawing  
Bill Lynch  
Bob & Charlotte Mansfield  
Mr. Clyde V. March  
Eleanor Martin  
Terry & Beverly McGahee  
Mr. & Mrs. James McLemore  
Anna V. Milligan  
Sam & Chris Moon  
Stephanie J. Moore  
Marian V. Morgan  
Terry & Irma R. Mottley  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Naismith  
Betsy T. O'Connor  
Rete Odom  
Miss Nellie Maude Overman  
Bill & Ginger Owen  
Fan G. Pantan  
Jim & Nancy Parker  
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Peachy  
Tom Pettit  
Cheryl A. Pisani  
Richard Pond, III  
Kristina Prudencio  
John & Judy Pruitt  
Bobby L. Ralph  
Henry A. Rawles, Jr.  
Patsy Powell Ray  
Dr. William H. Reid  
Charles & June Rice  
Surry Roberts  
Donna Rogers  
Blanche E. Rountree  
Iris Ruden  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Edward Russell, Jr.  
Mrs. Nancy Bruce Sanderson  
Bruce P. Saunders  
W.R. Savage, III  
Mr. & Mrs. Britt Seebo  
Edith Seiling  
Signore-Lehman Family  
Lee Slack  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Sledge, Jr.  
Raynell Smith  
Audrey P. Smith  
Margaret J. Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Dees Stallings  
Cindy Taylor  
Fred Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Thanos  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Totten  
Stewart Tyler  
Mr. & Mrs. L. Carrol Umphlette  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Darden Ward  
Gordon Carter Ward  
Nita Watterson  
Joby & Mindy Webb  
Lynette White  
Anne Parker White  
Mr. & Mrs. Don White  
Ann Claudia Whitfield  
Jordan & Amy Wiegand  
Jesse & Mary Williams  
Nancy Williams  
Richard & Sue Williams  
Jane B. Wommack  
Susan Woodward  
John D. Woodward  
Thomas Woodward, III  
Bert & Martha Young

## **GIFTS IN KIND**

Ed Anderson, QFCP-2  
Dave Arnold, Pender & Coward  
Paige Pollard, Commonwealth  
Preservation Group  
Tom Powell, The Addison Group

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the members and sponsoring businesses listed here.



## News from the Train Station



**Suffolk's Most Recognizable Landmark**  
Phone: 757-923-4750 Email: [trainstation@exis.net](mailto:trainstation@exis.net)  
Kristina Prudencio, Train Station Assistant

### Special Summer Hours at the Train Station

Thursday & Friday - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Saturday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Sunday - 1:00 - 4:00 pm

### New Train Station Committee

The SNHS Board of Directors recently appointed a new Train Station Committee. We are happy to have Tim and Marie Bentley back on board, along with old timers Karen Grogan, Karen Hughes, Bob Tompert and Barbara McPhail.

The committee had its first meeting on June 1 to begin work on plans and ideas for the Station and welcomes your comments and concerns.

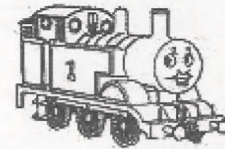
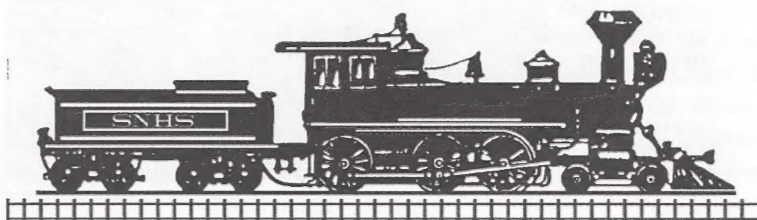
The committee will host a gathering in the near future to thank all volunteers for their continued support. If you have a friend who might enjoy volunteering, let us know. See phone number and email address above.

### Thank You

Thanks to the Tourism Department of the City of Suffolk for providing the Train Station with three interns who are volunteering at the Station and earning credit toward their college degrees. Robert Hill and Shayra Tolliver are students at Norfolk State University and Sarah Daniel is a student at Virginia Tech.

It is wonderful to have these students during the summer when many regular volunteers are on vacation.

*Joyner Park, adjacent to the N&W station at the east end of Bank Street, was the scene of weekend band concerts and other pleasant summer outings. Archa Pharis (extreme right, 1st row) played the cornet with the Community Service Band. Lady is at his feet.*



### Thomas Play Day at the Station

August 22, 2009

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

We will have Thomas movies for the kids to enjoy as well as story time and a coloring contest. Snacks will be provided.

20% off all children's toys and books that day

Special Door prize for all who attend

Register to win a family four pack of tickets for a "Day Out with Thomas" in Spencer, NC on September 25-27



*William Archa Pharis came from Martinsville, VA, and worked for Norfolk & Western RR for 50 years. Here he is shown in 1931 at the N&W station loading boxes of Planters Peanuts being sent to Italy by Mr. Obici. The box Mr. Pharis is holding was for Benito Mussolini. Though Mr. Obici always kept an eye to his homeland, he actively supported his adopted land once we entered the war.*





## Road Trip



To: Halifax County, N.C.  
 Date: Saturday, August 8  
 Departure: 7:30 a.m. from the Train Station  
 Return: Late afternoon  
 Cost: SNHS members - \$10, plus meals  
 Nonmembers - \$15, plus meals

*The Roanoke River is born in Virginia and flows into North Carolina, ultimately to the Albemarle Sound. In the eighteenth century farmers who lived along the upper Roanoke River above the fall line had great difficulty getting products to market, especially to the port at Norfolk.*



Emblem of Roanoke Canal Museum and Trail

*Around 1800 a canal was built to bypass the rapids. Bateaux were used to transport goods on the canal to the lower part of the river below the falls where steamboats and barges could pick up the goods and take them to Norfolk. The huge river flooded frequently and the canal locks needed constant repairs.*

*Then came the railroad and it changed everything. The Portsmouth and Roanoke Railroad came through Suffolk in 1834—our first railroad—and made its way to the Roanoke River to answer the need of the farmers in that area. This eventually became the Seaboard Railroad—now CSX.*

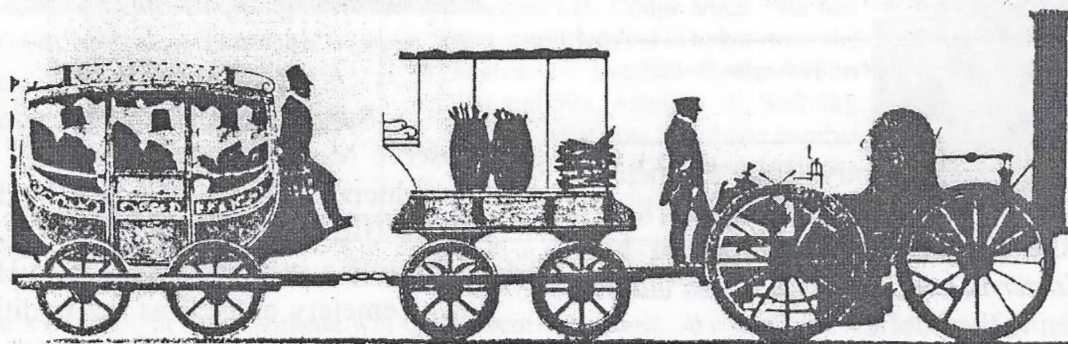
On Saturday, August 8, we'll follow the Seaboard RR to Seaboard, N.C., and have breakfast at the Broadnax Diner, a tiny place featured in *Interstate Eateries*. (Seaboard was, for many years, the home of the writer Bernice Kelly Harris.)

After breakfast, we will follow the railroad across the Roanoke River into Halifax County. Here we'll see some of Historic Halifax, an early port on the Roanoke River. We'll visit the Roanoke Canal Museum in Roanoke Rapids and its locks. We'll have lunch at Ralph's, famous for its barbeque and its great buffet. In Weldon we can visit an old hardware store and Riverside Mill, an old cotton mill that has recently become an art gallery and antiques mall.

Note: Roanoke Rapids was the home of Norma Rae. The town was named by Archie Chanler, (an Astor heir and husband of Virginia writer Amelie Rives) who owned a mill there on the river.

We'll plan to be back late afternoon.

FOR RESERVATIONS: Call the Dawson House, 539-2781. Space is limited.



from Railways





*We are very grateful to the Rotary Club for their recent second gift to the Dawson House project. Here Rotary member (and SNHS Vice President) Lynette White presents a check to SNHS President Becky Habel on the porch of the Dawson House. Photo thanks to Lynette White*



## Victory Parade

COMPANY F - 29th DIVISION

July 4, 1919



*Marching on the Square (100 block of West Washington Street)*

At the North Suffolk Library, 2000 Bennett's Creek Park Road, on Tuesday, August 18, at 6:00 pm, Chris Dickon will talk about his book *The Eastern Shore Railroad*. This talk is free and open to the public.

## Additional Gifts and Memorials

### To the Train Station:

- In memory of Eric Brooks from *Glenn & Karen Hughes*

### To the Dawson House:

- from *Suffolk Rotary Club*

### Correction:

- In honor of Judith W. Godwin from *Curtis & Martha Saunders*

### To Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society:

- In honor of Susan Garrett from *Anonymous*

Thanks to those of you who called to check on us at the Dawson House following the terrible Franklin Street fire. Also, thanks to our members and friends in the community who helped us help our neighbors. These families lost all their earthly possessions and are so grateful for any and all help. Thank goodness no lives were lost.



*UDC service at Cedar Hill on May 29, 2009. Photo thanks to Jimmy Crocker*

Suffolk residents had a number ways to observe Memorial Day this year. The United Daughters of the Confederacy held a service in Cedar Hill Cemetery on Saturday. On Monday there was a service at the Albert Horton Veterans Cemetery as well as the traditional American Legion service at the entrance to Cedar Hill.



# THANKS TO OUR 2009 CORPORATE MEMBERS PATRON

**FARMER'S BANK**  
Community Banking Since 1919  
www.farmersbankva.com~757-242-6111

**SUFFOLK NEWS-HERALD**  
Your Hometown Newspaper  
in Suffolk

## CONTRIBUTING

The Blair Bros., Inc. \* Butler Paper \* J. Walter Hosier & Son, Inc. \* Suffolk Iron Works, Inc.

### Gifts and Memorials

#### To Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society:

- From Ben Norfleet  
In honor of Kermit Hobbs from
- Miley & Jean Walker  
In Honor of Sue Woodward from
- Hon. John R. Jordan, Jr.

#### To the Dawson House:

- In memory of Emily R. Wheary from
- Nita Bagnell
- Mary Lawrence Harrell
- Glenn & Karen Hughes
- Joyce Trump
- Tom & Sue Woodward
- Hubert & Christine Young

#### To the Train Station:

- In memory of Jeanne Becker from
- Glenn & Karen Hughes

### SNHS Board

Rebecca Habel, President	Members at Large:
Lynette White, Vice President	Robert Baker
Monica Eure, Secretary	Karen Hughes
Michael Council, Treasurer	Hunter Odom
Robert Tompert, Asst. Treas.	Nita Bagnell/Mary
Kermit Hobbs, Historian	Lawrence Harrell

P.S. to our September 2008 Let's Go to the Fair issue:

LIVERY, SALE and EXCHANGE STABLES

**J. T. FREEMAN**

Dealer in  
HORSES and MULES

105 Main Street  
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

Telephone 466-J

*July 31 1913*

Letterhead thanks to Edith Seiling

### The Dawson House



*A Home for Local History*

Phone: 757-539-2781—email: snhs@verizon.net

www.suffolkhistory.org

Julie Johnson, Administrative Assistant

### From the Dawson House

- Twenty-four volunteers gave a total of more than 100 hours total in April, May and June at the Dawson House doing yard work, helping prepare for or working at our Heirloom Sale, preparing mailings, opening the house for part of Garden Tour day, and working on our collections, among many other bits and pieces of business.
- In April, May and June the office fielded nearly 40 requests for information or pictures. We're not always able to help but frequently we can. Among the most interesting was a request from Idaho for pictures of twenty-three gravestones in Cedar Hill. (We were happy to tell her that one person whose gravestone photo she requested is still alive.)
- Another interesting request was from new member John Heimerl who was restoring a 1934 Benthall Machine Co. Dodge truck. He had two questions: (1) what was the address of Benthall in the 1930s, 40s and 50s (Answer: E. Suffolk), and (2) what was the phone number (Answer: 2). (Answers from the 1949 phone book.)



P.S. to our June 2008 issue **The Pause That Refreshes:**



**CLICQUOT CLUB**  
BEVERAGES

Fifty Years  
THE Favorite

PHONE SUFFOLK **1658**

**CLICQUOT CLUB**  
**BOTTLING CO., Inc.**  
517 SOUTH MAIN ST.

From the 1949 Suffolk  
telephone directory


### Candlelight Tour—2009

This year's Candlelight Tour weekend will be different from most. We will feature a variety of activities at the Dawson House. Some readers might remember other years when we featured one place—i.e. Riddick's Folly. As always, it will be the first weekend in December. Look forward to the immensely popular Sugar Plum Kitchen and the Great Greens Sale again this year. More information coming in our next issue.





*Have a wonderful summer! Maybe yours will include some al fresco celebrations such as this birthday party at the W.B. Allen home on Riverview Drive in the 1930s. No doubt a number of our members were in attendance. If you find your face in the photo, we'd love to hear from you.*

SUFFOLK NANSEMOND  HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 1255  
Suffolk, Virginia 23439-1255

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SUFFOLK, VA  
PERMIT NO. 24



*Amedeo Obici riding with a young friend  
on the river side of the house*